Minutes

OF THE

One Hundred Thirty-Sixth

Annual Session

OF THE

Little River

Primitive Baptist Association

HELD WITH

Angier Church

ANGIER, HARNETT COUNTY, N. C.

SEPTEMBER 24, 25 AND 26,

1965

Next session convenes with Rehobeth Church located in Johnston County, N. C., Friday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1966.

OFFICERS

ELDER HENRY BYRD - Moderator, Benson N. C.

BROTHER M. E. FISH - Clerk, Angier, North Carolina

BROTHER E. G. McGEE - Ass't Clerk, Benson, N. C.

Primitive Publications, Elon College, N. C.

Proceedings

OF THE 136th ANNUAL SESSION OF THE LITTLE RIVER PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, HELD WITH ANGIER CHURCH, IN ANGIER, HARNETT COUNTY N. C. SEPTEMBER 24, 25, 26, 1965.

ELDER HENRY BYRD ..... Moderator
BROTHER M. E. FISH ..... Clerk
BROTHER E. G. McGEE ..... Ass't Clerk

FRIDAY MORNING:

1. The meeting was opened with praise and prayer by Elder Henry Byrd and the Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder Henry Byrd, text 1 Cor. 8:1-4.

2. After a short recess the brethren came together and after praise and prayer by Elder Henry Byrd, the Association was organized by choosing Elder Henry Byrd, Moderator, and Brother M. E. Fish, Clerk, who called to his assistance, Brother E. G. McGee.

3. Brethren Pete Watkins, R. H. Reaves, and Lonnie Johnson were appointed a Committee on Finance.

4. Calls for letters composing the Association were handed in, read and contents noted in Statistical Table (See Table).

5. On motion all messengers were seated and the Association declared organized and ready for such business as might come before it.

6. Calls for petitionary letters. None.

7. Then calls were made for corresponding messengers, and visitors from sister Associations:

Silver Creek: Not represented.

Original Bear Creek: Not represented.

Little River of Georgia: Not represented.

Visitors from Associations and Churches with whom we are not in direct correspondence:

On motion messengers and visitors from sister Associations were received and seated.

8. Called on messengers to report who agreed to attend corresponding Associations.

Silver Creek: Brethren Pete Watkins and Milton Byrd.

Original Bear Creek: Brother Joe Parker, his wife and daughter attended as visitors.

Little River of Georgia: Brother Lonnie Johnson.

9. Appointment of messengers to corresponding Associations were as follows:

Silver Creek: No messengers appointed this session.

Original Bear Creek: No messengers appointed this session.

Little River of Georgia: No messengers appointed this session.

10. Agreed that a Committee on Finance take charge of the Minutes from sister Associations and prepare for proper distribution to the churches of this Association.

11 Brethren L. B. Clayton, J. G. McGee, and J. C. Holmes were appointed a Committee on Preaching arrangements for the remainder of this session.

12. Agreed that our next session be held with Rehobeth Church, Johnston County, to begin on Friday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1966, and to continue for three days. Elder Henry Byrd was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon, with Elder J. T. Lewis as alternate. Worship to begin at 11 a. m.

13. Agreed to adjourn until Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. Benediction by Brother J. C. Holmes.

SATURDAY MORNING:

14. The Association met according to adjournment and was opened with praise and prayer by Elder Henry Byrd, whereupon the Association resumed business.

15. Again called for petitionary letters. None.

16. Again called for messengers from corresponding Associations.

17. Then called for report from Finance Committee, which was as follows:

RECEIPTS:

Received from churches	$138.00	
Received from friends		$138.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

For the Clerk's eervices	15.00	
Printing and mailing Minutes	45.00	
Distributed to ministers	78.00	$138.00

Balance on hand, none.

On motion report from Finance Committee was received.

18. Agreed that the balance of the funds left in the hands of Finance Committee, after deducting the usual expense, be distributed among the ministers.

19. Ordered the Clerk to transcribe and superintend the printing of the Minutes of this session, and to have 150 copies printed and to distribute them among the several churches proporionately with the membership, entering a copy of same upon the permanent records of this Association.

20. The Clerk is ordered to give sufficient notice of the time and place of holding the next session, with all necessary information pertaining thereto.

21. Agreed to extend thanks to the brethren, sisters and friends of Angier Church and the surrounding community for their kindness shown in supporting the Association during this session.

22. On motion, the Corresponding Letter written by Brother M. E. Fish was called for and read. Brother L. B. Clayton was appointed to write the Corresponding Letter for the next session.

23. On motion the above proceedings were read, approved then adjourned until Sunday morning at 10:30.

Benediction by Brother L. B. Clayton.

ELDER HENRY BYRD, Moderator
BROTHER M. E. FISH, Clerk
BROTHER E. G. McGEE, Ass't Clerk

HOME MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Elder J. T. Lewis, Coats, N. C.
Elder Henry Byrd, Benson, N. C.

CORRESPONDING LETTER

To the brethren and sisters of the Little River Association, together with all of like precious faith, greetings:

It is again the Lord has blessed a portion of His people to meet in an associational capacity to worship and adore His precious name. We trust we are thankful for this privilege. The Scripture records that "It is through much tribulation we enter the Kingdom." We are brought to know by experience that we are not our keeper. Personally I have passed through many sad experiences, but after all, it has, I trust, been for my good to keep me from becoming exalted above measure. We are made to look to One who is able to lead us through evil as well as good report. We invoke the blessings of the Lord on this meeting, to our comfort and to His glory.

May He bless us to meet again next year and we invite all of like mind to meet with us.

Farewell in the Lord. From a brother, I trust, in hope.

—M. E. Fish

ORDER OF PREACHING

Friday Morning:

Praise and prayer by Elder Henry Byrd.
Elder Henry Bryd, Introductory Sermon, 1 Co. 8:1-4.

Saturday Morning:

Elder Henry Byrd, praise and prayer.
Elder Henry Bryd, 2 Tim. 2:1, 2.
Elder Henry Byrd, Benediction.
Praise and prayer by Elder Henry Byrd.
Sermon, Elder Henry Byrd, John 6:35.
Benediction, Elder Henry Byrd.

TIME AND PLACE OF HOLDING COMMUNION MEETINGS, WITH PASTORS' NAMES

Four Oaks—Elder J. T. Lewis, pastor, fourth Sunday and Saturday before in July, 11 a. m.

Rehobeth—Elder Henry Byrd, pastor, second Sunday and Saturday before in Feb., May, Aug., Nov., 11 a. m.

Angier—Elder J. T. Lewis, pastor, first Sunday and Saturday before in June, Sat. 2:30 p. m., Sunday 11 a. m.

Mt. Zion: Elder Henry Byrd, first Sunday, 3 p. m., Communion meeting in July.

Honeycutts Request—Elder Henry Byrd, pastor, second Sunday in Aug., Sat. night 8:00, Sun. 3 p. m.

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT

Brother O. B. Currin

Brother O. B. Currin passed away in death September 2, 1965, after a serious illness of several weeks and a period of declining health of several months. He united with Angier Primitive Baptist Church July 10, 1920, by letter from Surl's Church in Person County. He was blessed to live a devoted member the remainder of his life.

His funeral was conducted by his pastor, Elder J. T. Lewis, assisted by Elder Henry Byrd, Saturday, September 4, 1965 and his body was laid to rest in the Church cemetery.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife, five sons, five daughters, and a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was a retired farmer and was highly esteemed by those who knew him and will be greatly missed by his family, his church and friends in his community. May God comfort and bless them in their bereavement.

Resolved, first: The church bow in humble submission to His divine will who doeth all things well, feeling that our earthly loss is his eternal gain.

Second: That a copy of this sketch be sent to his family, one sent to the Primitive Baptist paper for publication and one recorded on our church book.

The above was authorized by the church assembled in conference, Saturday, October 2, 1965.

Elder Henry Byrd, Moderator
Brother M. E. Fish, Church Clerk

FORM OF GOVERNMENT

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the churches in the Little River Association, who shall be members supposed to be the best qualified for that purpose, and those producing letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats in the Association, provided they shall not violate the rules of this Constitution.
2. In the letters from the churches shall be expressed the number received by experience and baptism, the number received by letter, the number dismissed by letter, the number excommunicated, and those who died since the last Association was held.
3. Members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated The Little River Primitive Baptist Association.
4. The Association, when convened, shall be governed and ruled by a regular and proper decorum.
5. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by members composing it; the Moderator to be chosen annually at each Association; the Clerk to continue in office during his pleasure or the pleasure of the Association.
6. New churches may be admitted into the union by a written petition, presented by messengers, with letter, and upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, it may be manifested by the Moderator giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.
7. Every church in the union shall be entitled to representation in the Association but shall have only three messengers from each church.

8. Every query presented by any messenger in the Association shall be read and before it shall be debated, the Moderator shall put it to a vote as to whether or not it shall be debated, and if a majority votes for debating, the query shall be debated; otherwise the query must be withdrawn.

9. Every motion made by any messenger, which receives a second, shall be considered by the Association, unless it be withdrawn by the messenger offering it.

10. The Association shall furnish the churches in the union with Minutes of its proceedings.

11. We believe it to be absolutely necessary to have a fund for defraying the necessary expenses of the Association and recommend that each church composing it voluntarily contribute such sum as they think proper, and send by their messengers to the Association, which money shall be placed in the hands of the Clerk, who shall account for the same and pay it out as directed by the Association.

12. The Clerk shall have a book wherein shall be recorded the proceedings of each Association, as well as a record of the dates of each Association and when Associations are held at the different churches in the union, for which he shall receive a yearly compensation.

13. The Association shall provide for the general union of churches, and shall preserve inviolably a chain of communication among the same; shall give churches all necessary advice when called upon to do so; shall inquire into the cause of failure on part of any church not represented at each Association; shall appropriate the money contributed by the church for Associational fund to any purpose it deems proper; may appoint any member or members by and with their consent, to transact any business connected with the Association; shall have power to withdraw from any church composing the union, which violates the rules of the Association or deviates from the orthodox principles of faith.

14. Visiting brethren may be invited to assist in the Association in every way except to vote.

15. Amendments may be made to this form of government at any time, by a majority vote.

16. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and approved and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before adjournment.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in the being of God, as almighty, eternal, unchangeable, of infinite wisdom, justice, power, holiness, goodness, mercy, and truth and that this God has revealed Himself in His Word under the character of Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that Almighty God has made known His mind and will to the children of men in His Word, which Word we believe to be of divine authority and contains all things necessary to be known for the salvation of man. The same is comprehended or contained in the books of the Old and New Testaments.

3. We believe that God, before the foundation of the world, for a purpose in His own glory, did elect a certain number of men and angels to eternal life, and that this election is particular, eternal and unconditional on the creature's part.

4. We believe that when God made man he was good and upright, but by his own transgressions he fell from the good and upright state, and being the head representative of the whole human race, they being his natural offspring, he involved all of them in the same ruined

state with himself, and they were partakers of, and exposed to the miseries which sprang from his disobedience.

5. We believe that it is utterly out of the power of man, as a fallen creature, to keep the law of God perfectly or to repent truly of his sins, or believe in Christ, except he be drawn by the Holy Spirit.

6. We believe in God's own appointed time, and way, the elect will be called, justified, pardoned and sanctified, and that it is impossible that they can utterly refuse the call, but shall be willing by divine grace to receive mercy.

7. We believe that justification in the sight of God is only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, received and applied by faith.

8. We believe that those that are called by grace and born again will persevere in holiness and never fall finally away.

9. We believe it to be a duty incumbent on all God's people to walk religiously in all good works, not in the old covenant way of seeking life and favor of the Lord by it, but only as a duty from a principle of love.

10. We believe baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper are gospel ordinances, both belonging to the converted or true believer.

11. We believe that every church is independent in matters of discipline, and that Associations, councils and conferences of ministers or churches, are not to impose on the church, the keeping, holding or maintaining of any principle or practice contrary to the church's judgment.

12. We believe in the general resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust, and a final judgment.

13. We believe the punishment of the wicked is everlasting and the joys of the righteous eternal.

14. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances unless called and come under the imposition of hands by the presbytery.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator in beginning of his speech.

3. Every brother speaking shall adhere strictly to the subject under consideration, and shall in no way reflect on any other brother.

4. No messenger shall absent himself from the Association while in conference without permission.

5. No messenger shall speak more than three times on the same subject without permission from the Association.

6. Messengers shall keep strict order while the business of the Association is being transacted.

7. No messenger shall be interrupted while speaking unless he violates the Rules of Decorum.

8. No messenger shall address another in other term or appellation than the title of "brother."

9. The names of members composing the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called over as the Association requires.

10. The Moderator shall not speak on any question before the Association until the other members are through speaking, when he may give his views; after which any member having a right to speak, may reply to any matter introduced by the Moderator.

11. Any member who shall violate any rule of the Association shall be dealt with by the Association as it deems proper.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	CLERKS AND ADDRESSES	MESSENGERS	Annual or Com.	Sun. of Meeting	Rec'd by Baptism	Rec'd by Letter	Restored to Fel.	Dis'd by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Tot. Membership	Contribution	Asso. Last Held
Four Oaks	J. C. Holmes, Rt. 3, Benson, N. C.	J. C. Holmes, Joe Parker	July	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	20	$20.00	1963
Rehobeth	E. G. McGee, Rt. 3, Benson, N. C.	J. G. McGee, R. A. Langdon, Alonzo Clifton	Aug.	2	....	....	....	....	9	....	21	24.00	1946
Angier	M. E. Fish, Angier, N. C.	Hubert Smith, T. H. Stephenson, L. B. Clayton	June	1	....	....	....	....	18	1	38	64.00	1965
Mt. Zion	No Clerk	Represented by Elder Henry Byrd	July	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	7	5.00	1957
Honeycutt's Request	Freddie Giles, Rt. 1, Godwin, N. C.	R. H. Reaves, Lonnie Johnson, Weldon Johnson	Aug.	2	....	....	....	....	....	1	18	25.00	1961
		Totals		....	....	....	....	....	27	2	104	138.00	